

This week, Pastor Andy presents "Breaking Free From Fear," part 1 of a 7 part series titled "Facing Your Fears". Andy begins by making the point that our world has changed greatly in the last twenty years. Childhood fears of the "dark" and of "strangers" are no longer what our children fear. In the world today, our children are far more likely to fear "terrorism" and "parental divorce". Fear is woven into the fabric of our society and the Bible actually spends more time talking about it than it does heaven or hell. No wonder Satan uses fear as a weapon in his arsenal to attempt to render you ineffective in your life.

Fear takes the opportunity to intrude into your life in the fulfilling of your daily responsibilities, in your relationships with others and in how you value yourself or how you think others may value you. Fear paralyzes your potential by causing you to turn away from difficult or scary situations. You become deflected and never reach the fully developed person you are capable of being. Fear ruins your relationships because it prevents you from being open and real in your dealings with other people. You live your life behind a mask, or shield, so that no one can really know YOU. If they do not know you, you feel that they cannot hurt you. Fear sabotages your success because it can create a self-fulfilling prophesy of failure in whatever you are trying to do. You fear failing and so you end up doing something that actually causes you to fail. In each of these cases, Fear is the culprit! Truly, the problem of fear should be avoidable. There are only two real fears that you are born into the world with. One is the "fear of falling" and the other is the "fear of loud noises". Every other kind of fear is LEARNED and so it can be UNLEARNED.

So what can be done about fear in your life? How can you begin to break free? Andy points out that God wants you to know three things that are more powerful than fear. The first thing you need to know is that "Truth" is more powerful than fear. God's Word will teach you the TRUTH about who you really are and who God has planned for you to become in Christ. The second thing you need to know is that "Love" is more powerful than fear. Knowing God's love for you drives out fear because His love is focused on YOU and fear is self-focused. The third thing that is more powerful than fear is "Faith". God grants you a GIFT OF FAITH through Jesus. God's gift of faith is always enough for every situation! Then He gives you His Word which contains specific promises to deal with the every kinds of fear that you may have. Faith unlocks those promises in your life and breaks the grip of fear. Do you have fears in your life? What will you do today to begin to break free?